Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

for the

Almaden Lake Park Improvements Project

CITY OF SAN JOSE

April 2004

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Chapter 1. Background Information

PROJECT DATA

1. **Project Title:** Almaden Lake Park Improvements Project

2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** City of San Jose Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement, 801 N. First Street, Room 400, San Jose, CA 95110

3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Michael Rhoades (408) 277-4576

4. **Project Proponent:** City of San Jose Public Works Department, Parks and Recreation Facilities Division

5. **Project Location:** southeast corner of Coleman Road and Almaden Expressway

6. **Project Description:** Renovations to the existing park, including an east side snack bar/boat rental building with storage, floating boat dock, renovation of the existing boat ramp, new group picnic area with shade structure, new play area on the east side of the lake, a trail link from the existing trail to the bridge located on the north side of Coleman Road, security lighting, two bocce ball courts with shade structures, and park furniture.

Chapter 2. Project Description

INTRODUCTION

This Initial Study has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of an Initial Study is to determine whether the proposed project could significantly affect the environment, requiring the preparation and distribution of an Environmental Impact Report. Based on the following analysis, it appears that the environmental impacts of the project would be less-than-significant with proposed mitigation, and that the project would be eligible for a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is proposed within the corporate limits of the City of San Jose, in Santa Clara County. The project improvements are proposed at Almaden Lake Park, located at the southeast corner of Almaden Expressway and Coleman Road (refer to Figures 1 and 2).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Almaden Lake Park is a 69.4-acre park facility owned jointly by the City of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD). The park is operated by the City of San Jose Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services; the lake area is under a long-term lease agreement with SCVWD. Existing facilities at Almaden Lake Park consist of a sand beach and swim area, lawn and picnic areas, barbeques, and a play area. In addition, there is a snack bar and rental concession. Activities available at the park include walking, picnicking, fishing, swimming, non-motorized boating, volleyball, and horseshoes. The Los Alamitos Creek Trail, a pedestrian and bicycle path, connects Almaden Lake Park to Santa Teresa County Park. The park is open from dawn until half an hour after sunset. Entry into the park is controlled by manned kiosks during peak season (May-September). The City Parks Division is responsible for park operation and maintenance.

The City Parks Division is proposing several renovations to Almaden Lake Park. An aerial photograph of the existing lake and proposed improvements is presented in Figure 3. Site plans and schematics of the park improvements are presented in Figures 4A to 4D. Photographs of the existing park and proposed improvement sites are presented in Figures 5A and 5B.

Renovations are proposed on both the north and east sides of the lake, and consist of the following components:

North Side

- A trail link to provide safe circulation along the entire perimeter of Almaden Lake. A new 10-foot wide trail is proposed from the existing trail at the northernmost edge of the park, beneath the Coleman Road

bridge, to the new pedestrian bridge planned on the north side of Coleman Road (expected to be completed April 30, 2004). The pedestrian bridge is being developed to provide access across Los Alamitos Creek and link several miles of bicycle/pedestrian trail.

East Side

- Snack bar/boat rentals in a single building with deck
- Installation of floating boat dock
- Access trail to boat ramp/dock
- Renovation of existing boat ramp
- New play area containing playground equipment, resilient paving, water play element, and benches
- Construction of two new bocce ball courts and an area graded for two future courts
- New group picnic area with shade structure and eight-foot wide concrete access path (southeast portion of site)
- Security lighting along the existing trail
- Addition of park furniture (i.e., benches, shade structures, playground equipment, picnic and game tables)

A conceptual schematic of the floating dock is presented in Figure 4D. It is assumed that the floating dock would be anchored to the shore with a bulkhead or similar structure at the edge of the shore and have a set of piers where the dock connects to the gangway. The remainder of the dock would be stabilized with chains and weights.

Construction of the project would require the movement of approximately 2,353 cubic yards (CY) of material (995 CY cut/1,358 CY fill). Grading would primarily be required for construction of the trail connection at the Coleman Road Bridge, the boat ramp, and the playground area.

The project includes installation of landscaping, turf, and updated irrigation systems. The proposed drainage system would generally follow the existing scheme, with runoff directed into existing and proposed catch basins that tie into the existing storm drain lines, or directed as sheetflow into the lake. The project would also implement pre- and post-construction erosion control measures at the locations of proposed improvements to minimize water quality impacts. Reseeding and bank stabilization would occur in the areas disturbed by construction and between the proposed trail link and lake. Proposed erosion control measures are listed below:

- Compact and stabilize soil using soil type to match existing
- Hydroseed and plant in accordance with biologist's recommendations
- Match and enhance existing habitat (e.g., grassland, upland scrub)
- Stabilize wave action at lake front (waterline to floodline) with erosion control and planting
- Stabilize and cover waterline to floodline area with erosion control mat
- Seed waterline to floodline area with annual and perennial vegetation/grasses

Future modifications to Almaden Lake have been identified by the SCVWD in accordance with recommendations in the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE). This multi-agency study was completed in February 26, 2003, and considered remedies to improve aquatic habitat in Coyote Creek, Stevens Creek, and Guadalupe River. Specifically, this study calls for development of a bypass channel through Almaden Lake to isolate the lake from Los Alamitos and Guadalupe Creeks. The timing for the bypass is unknown, and no funding for design or construction is currently available. If the bypass is developed, the City will work closely with the SCVWD to develop a recreational program that accommodates the changes in lake hydrology.

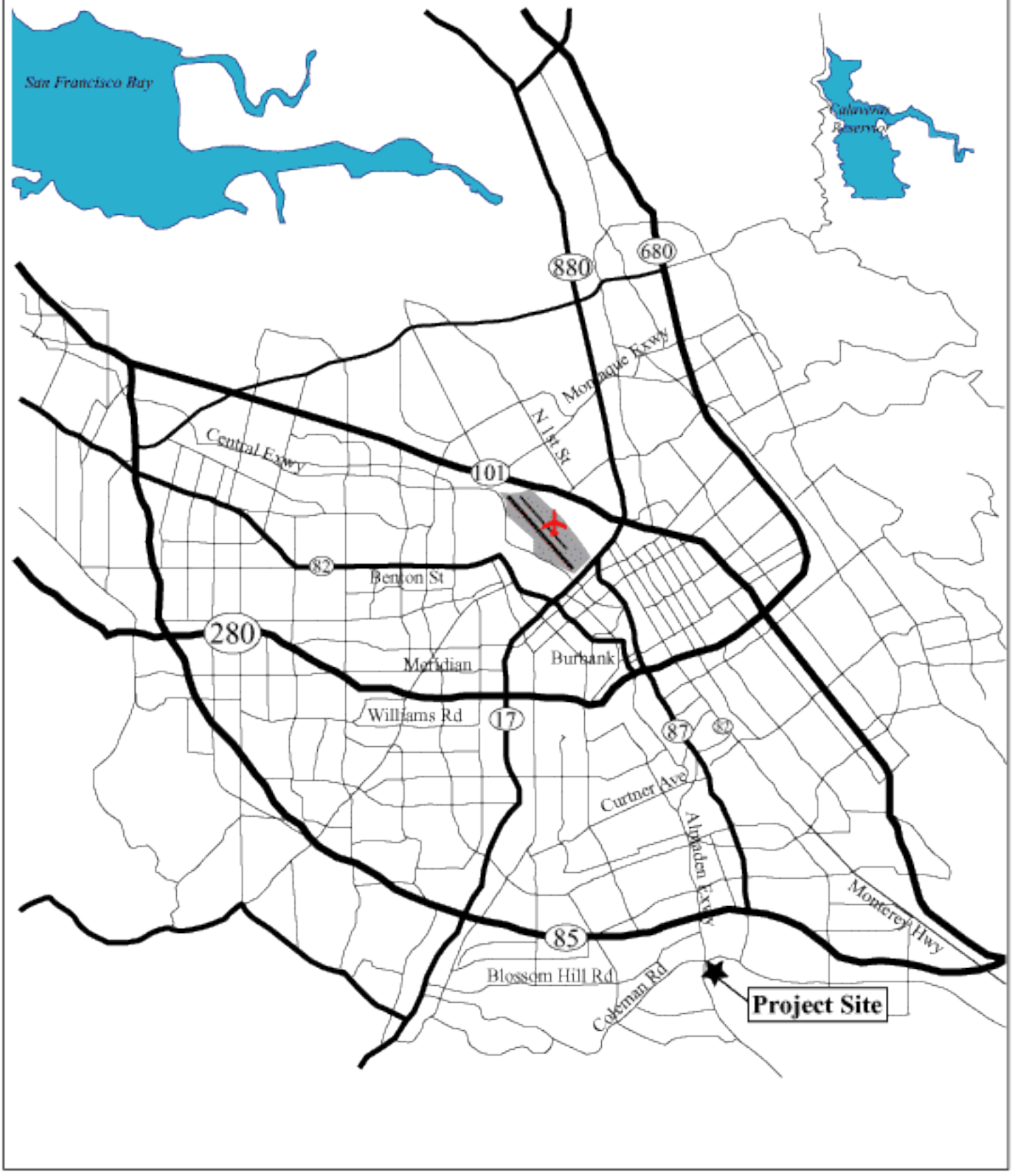
PROJECT OBJECTIVES

In November of 2000, San Jose voters approved the San Jose Safe Neighborhood Parks and Recreation Bond (Measure P), which allotted funds to renovate parks and recreation facilities throughout the City. The proposed improvements to Almaden Lake Park are identified in the 1982 Master Plan with the exception of the bocce ball courts. The bocce ball courts were added to meet the need for a senior element in the park, identified during the public outreach process. Measure P provides funding for the design and implementation of the proposed improvements to Almaden Lake Park.

REQUIRED APPROVALS

The project will require the following approvals for development:

- City of San Jose – Environmental Clearance (ND)
- Santa Clara Valley Water District – Encroachment Permit
- Regional Water Quality Control Board – Water Quality Certification Permit
- California Department of Fish and Game – Streambed Alteration Permit
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Section 404 Permit



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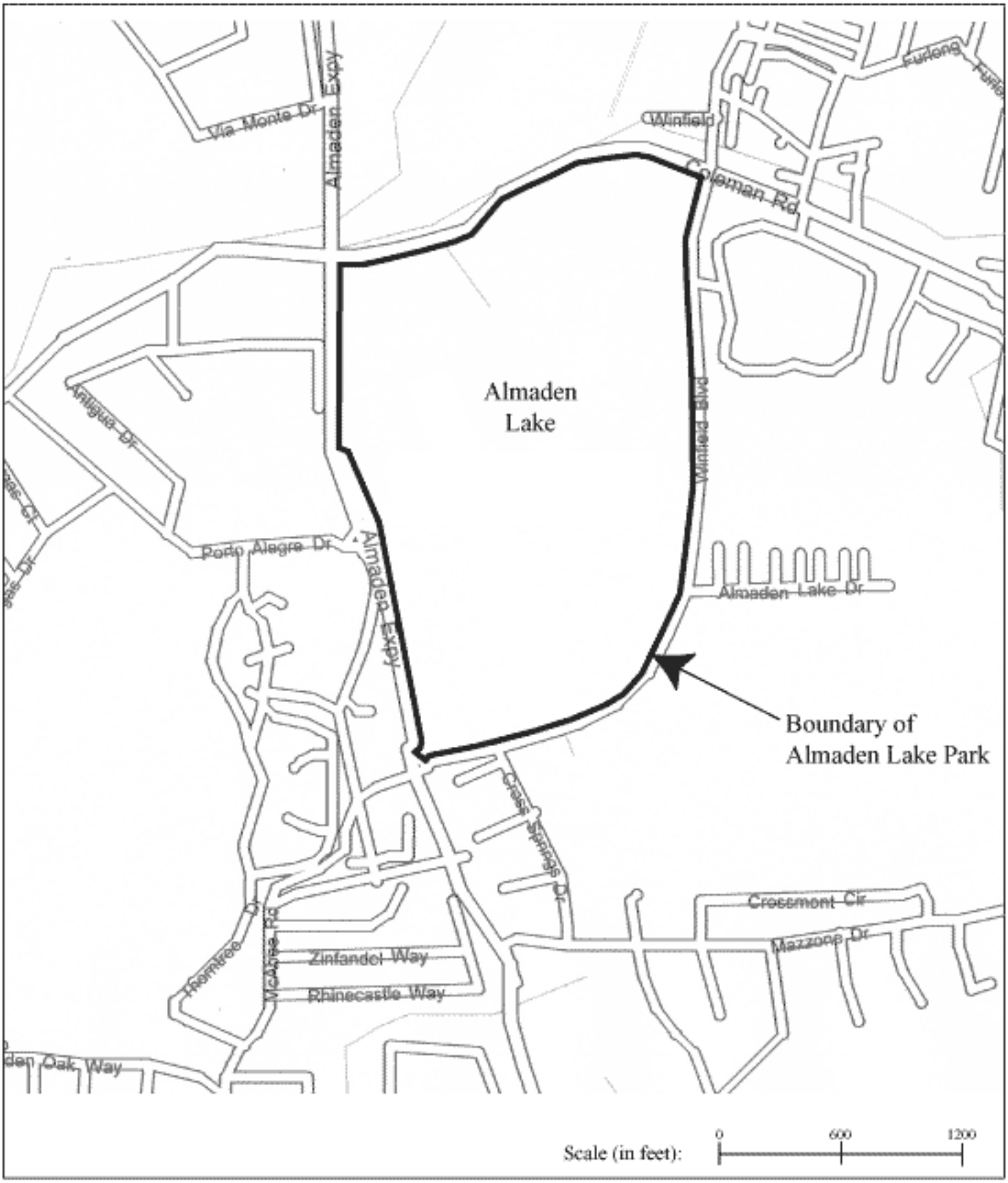
Regional Map

Figure 1



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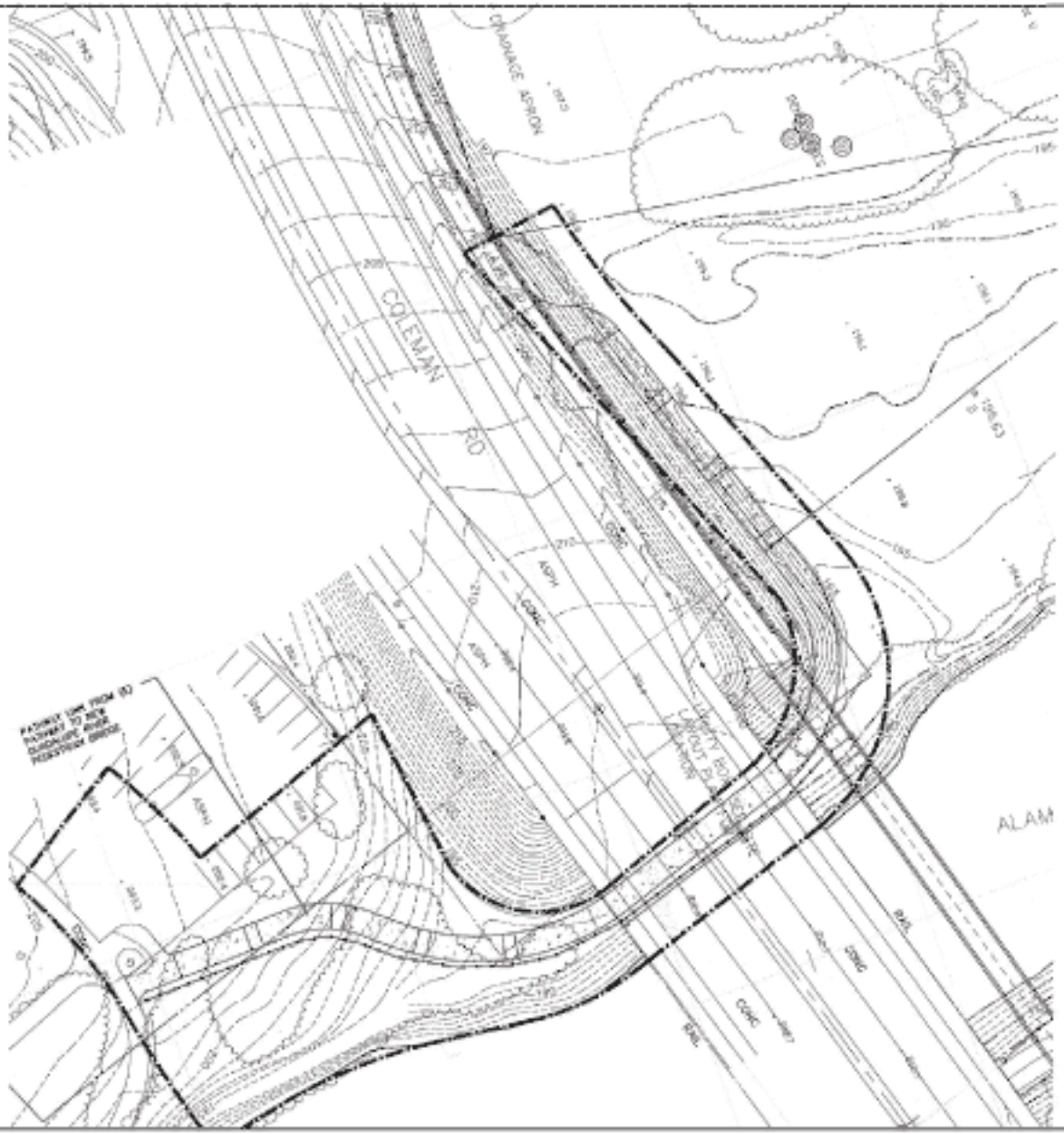
Vicinity Map

Figure 2

Source: City of San Jose, Department of Public Works

N	Aerial Photo	Figure 3



MATERIAL REFERENCE LEGEND

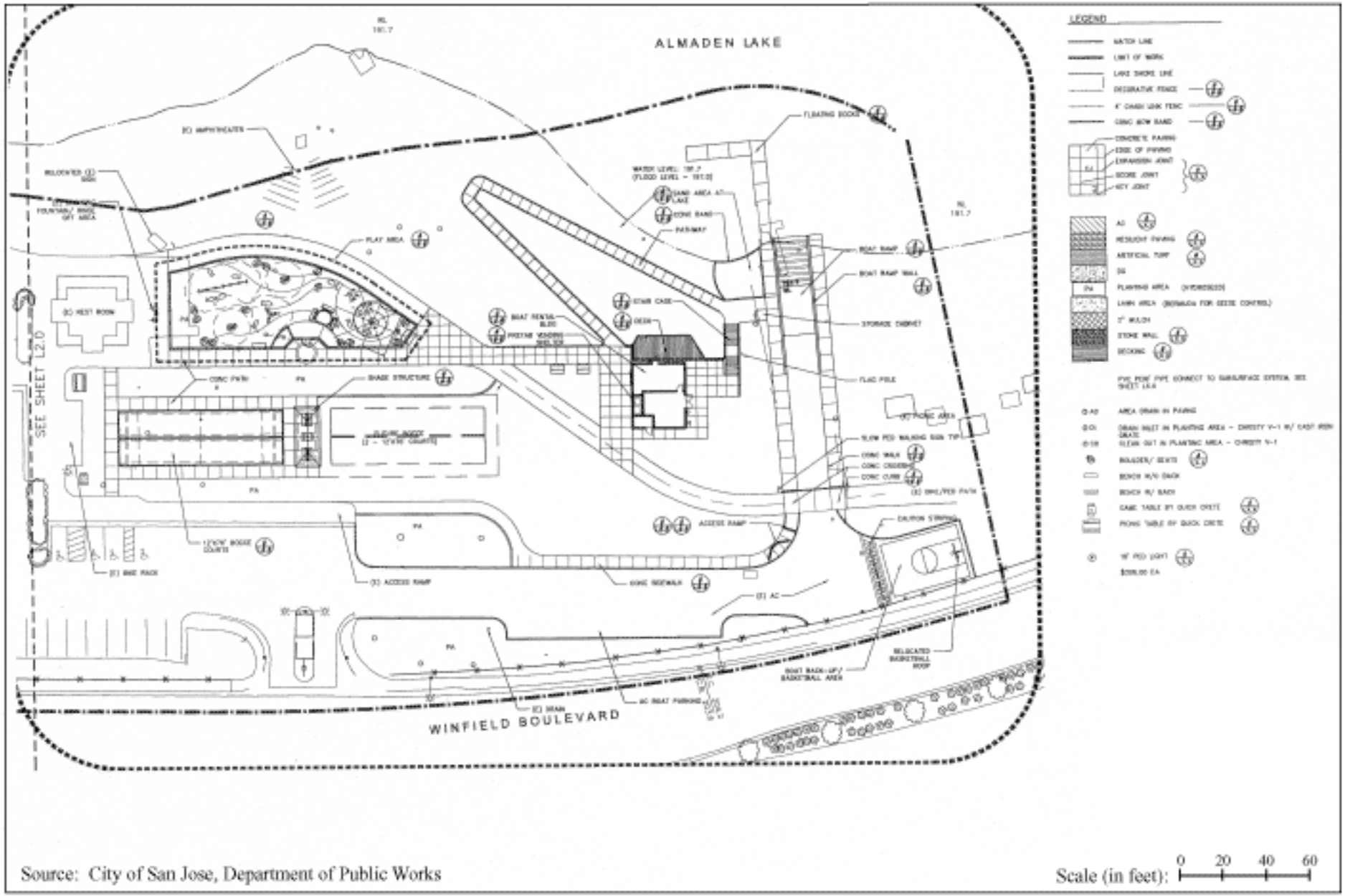
SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION OF ITEM	DETAIL REFE
	CONCRETE PAVING – TYPE 1 6" THICK GREY P.C.C PAVING W/ LIGHT BROOM FINISH SWEPT PERPENDICULAR TO DIRECTION OF TRAVEL. SCORE JOINTS AT MIN. 6' O.C AS PER PLAN.	DTL X, SHT.
	ASPHALT PAVING	DTL X, SHT.
	DECOMPOSED GRANITE PAVING	DTL X, SHT.
Ps	PLANTING AREA – SEE PLANTING PLAN	DTL X, SHT.
	LAWN AREA – SEE PLANTING PLAN	DTL X, SHT.
	MATCH LINE	DTL X, SHT.
	LIMIT OF WORK	DTL X, SHT.
	LAKE SHORELINE	DTL X, SHT.
	DECORATIVE FENCING	DTL X, SHT.
	4' CHAIN LINK FENCE	DTL X, SHT.
	6" CONC. NOMINAD	DTL X, SHT.
	KEYED COLD JOINT AT EVERY 20' (TYP.)	DTL X, SHT.
	SCORE JOINT	DTL X, SHT.

Scale (in feet): 0 20 40 60

Source: City of San Jose, Department of Public Works

Site Plan
North Side Trail

Figure
4A

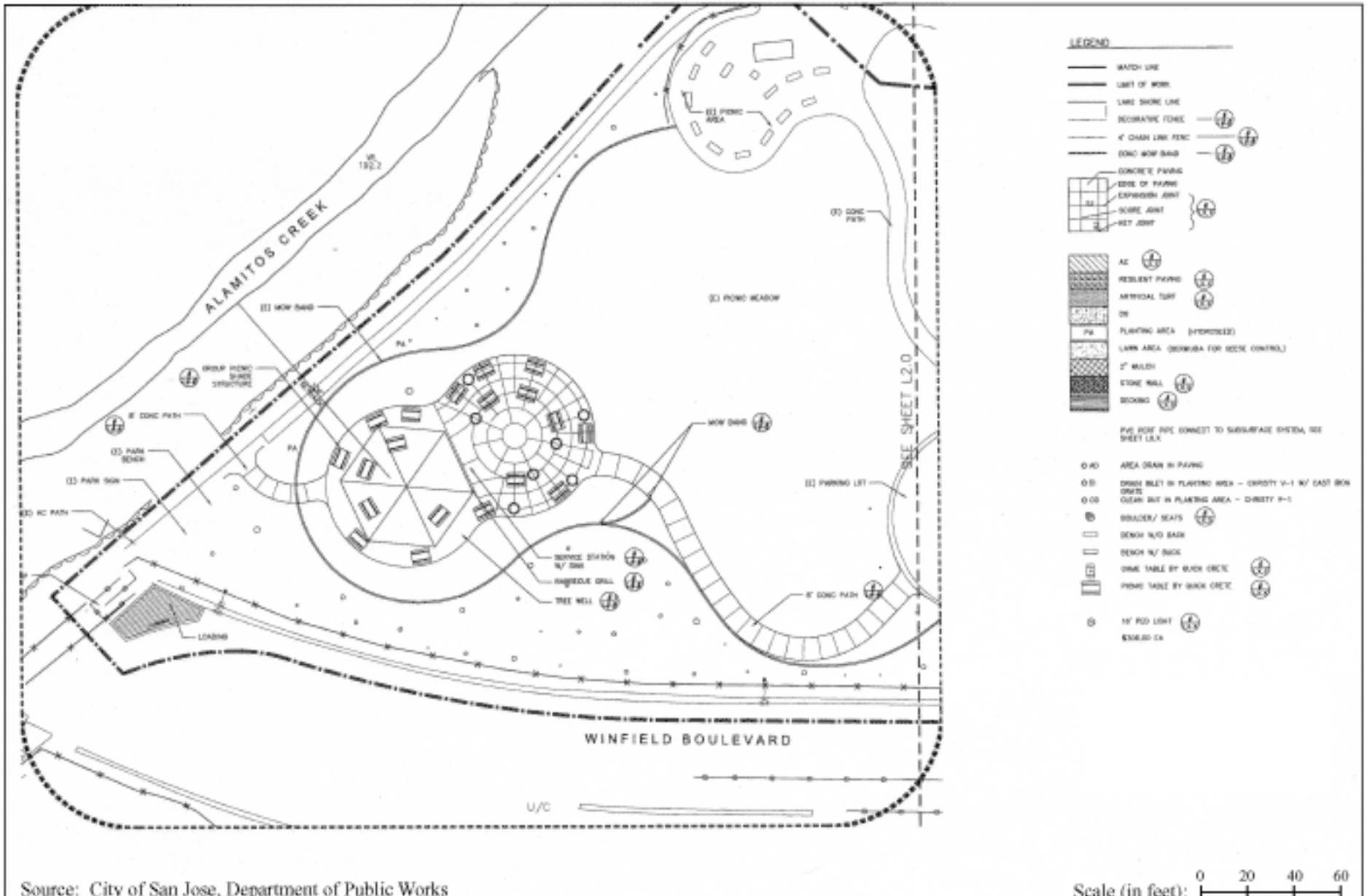


Source: City of San Jose, Department of Public Works

Scale (in feet): 0 20 40 60

Site Plan
East Side Marina Complex

Figure
4B



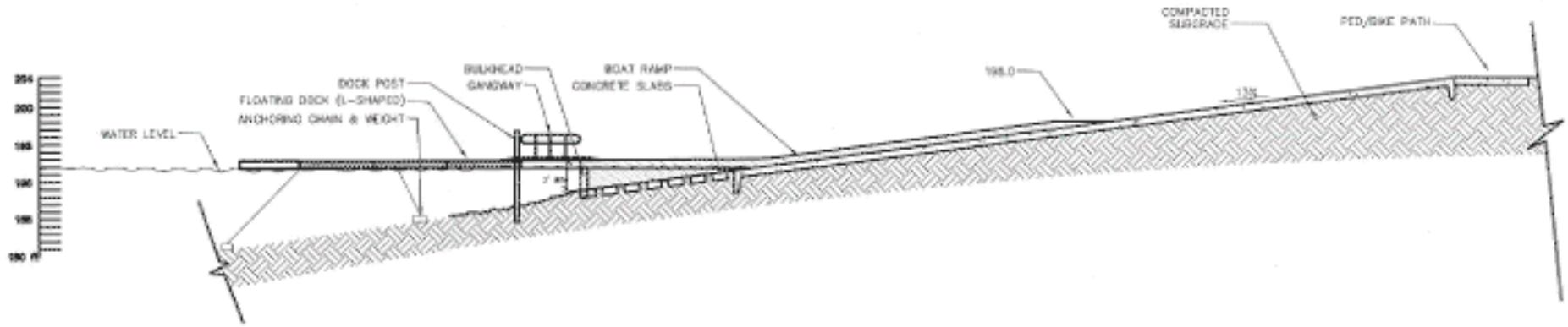
Source: City of San Jose, Department of Public Works

Scale (in feet): 0 20 40 60

N

Site Plan
East Side Picnic Area

Figure
4C



Source: City of San Jose, Department of Public Works

Schematic of Floating Dock

Figure 4D

Photo 1. View of Almaden Lake Park from west side looking east.

Photo 2. View of Almaden Lake Park from east side looking west.

Photo 3. View of north side parking area.

Photo 4. View of proposed north side trail alignment looking north toward the Coleman Road bridge.

Site Photos

Figure 5A

Photo 5. View of proposed east side picnic facility.

Photo 6. View of proposed east side Marina Complex.

Photo 7. View of proposed east side play area.

Photo 8. View of proposed boat ramp renovations.

	Site Photos	Figure 5B

Chapter 3. Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation

INTRODUCTION

The environmental checklist identifies potentially significant impacts associated with the proposed project. This checklist is included in its entirety in Appendix A of this report. Based on the checklist review, this Initial Study addresses the following pertinent environmental issues:

- air quality
- biological resources
- cultural resources
- geology and soils
- hazards/hazardous materials
- hydrology/water quality
- land use
- noise
- public services
- transportation
- utilities/service systems

AIR QUALITY

Setting

The climate of the Bay Area is characterized by mild rainy winters and warm dry summers. Most precipitation occurs between November and April. The Bay Area has regular temperature inversions, especially in summer. The topography of the South Bay, which includes the surrounding Santa Cruz Mountains and Diablo Range Mountains, restricts horizontal dilution and mixing of pollutants and channels winds from north to south carrying pollution from the northern Peninsula toward San Jose. The combined effects of moderate ventilation, frequent inversions, and terrain give San Jose a relatively stable atmosphere that can increase the potential for pollution.

Air Quality Policies and Regulations

The project is located within the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is the local agency authorized to regulate stationary air quality sources in the Bay Area. The BAAQMD develops and enforces air quality regulations for non- vehicular sources, issues permits, participates in air quality planning, and operates a regional air quality monitoring network. The Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA) and the California Clean Air Act (CCAA) mandate the control and reduction of certain air pollutants. Under this Act, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) have established ambient air quality standards for certain "criteria" pollutants, designed to protect public health and welfare.

Sensitive receptors in the project area include residential uses along Winfield Boulevard, Coleman Road, and Almaden Expressway. The nearest receptors to the proposed construction activities are those on the east side of Winfield Boulevard directly opposite Almaden Lake Park.

Impacts and Mitigation

Thresholds per CEQA checklist:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			X	
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?		X		
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			X	
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?		X		
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?				X

The project would not result in long-term air quality impacts, since the park renovations would not generate a substantial number of new vehicle trips to the site. Based on the BAAQMD thresholds of significance, projects that generate fewer than 2,000 vehicle trips per day are not considered major air pollutant contributors, and do not require a technical air quality study.

The project would result in short-term air quality impacts during construction, associated primarily with the increase in suspended particulates, or dust. Construction activities, including site clearing and soil disturbance, could generate dust emissions and locally elevated levels of particulates (i.e., PM_{10}) downwind of construction activities. This increase in dust could result in potentially significant short-term impacts on nearby residences, particularly those directly opposite the park along Winfield Boulevard.

Mitigation

- Provide equipment and manpower for watering all exposed or disturbed earth surfaces at least twice daily or more as needed to prevent dust emissions, or apply non-toxic soil stabilizers sufficient to

prevent emissions from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency shall be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 miles per hour.

- Cover stockpiles of debris, soil, sand, or other materials that can be windblown. Trucks transporting fill material shall be covered, as required by state law.

- Damp sweep all paved construction areas and adjacent streets of mud and dust daily, or more frequently, as needed to keep these areas free of dirt and debris. Install sandbags or other erosion control measures to prevent silt runoff to public roadways.

- After clearing is completed, exposed portions of the site shall be watered, landscaped, applied with soil stabilizers, or covered as soon as possible.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Setting

A biotic resources assessment was completed for the project site by Biotic Resources Group (BRG). This investigation included a field reconnaissance, characterization of the major plant communities on the site, identification of potential sensitive biotic resources, a wetlands delineation, and evaluation of project impacts. This assessment is contained in Appendix B of this report.

Four plant community types were observed within the project area: wetland (in-stream riverine and freshwater marsh), riparian scrub, landscape tree groves and non-native grassland/ruderal grassland (including irrigated turf areas). The project area also includes open water habitats within the lake and along portions of Los Alamitos Creek. The non-native grassland/ruderal habitat comprises the majority of the area proposed for the boat launch, picnic facilities, and trail connection. The footings for the proposed floating dock occur in open water habitat. The distribution of the plant communities within the project area is provided in Appendix B (see Figures 2 through 4).

Non-Native Grassland/Ruderal Grassland

The non-native grassland/ruderal grassland occurs in areas of the project proposed for the new boat launch, group picnic facilities and a portion of the trail connector near Almaden Expressway. Non-native grasses and forbs dominate these grassland areas. The dominant plant species within the irrigated turf areas, as observed during the November 2003 field survey, include fescue (*Festuca* sp.), English daisy (*Bellis perennis)* and Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon)*. Non-irrigated grassland areas, such as near the proposed boat ramp and along the slopes of Los Alamitos Creek, include wild oat (*Avena* sp.), sweet fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare),* wild mustard (*Brassica* sp.), witch grass (*Pannicum* sp.), horseweed (*Conyza* sp.), bull mallow (*Malva neglecta),* white sweet clover (*Melilotus alba),* bur clover (*Medicago polymorpha),* bristly ox-tongue (*Polypogon monspeliensis),* common plantain (*Plantago major),* and yellow star thistle (*Centaurea soltitialis).*

The overall value for wildlife of the mowed, irrigated turf and sparse ruderal grassland areas is low. The proximity of this habitat type to Los Alamitos Creek and Almaden Lake increases its use by some types of wildlife such as birds. The recreational use of the turf limits use of these areas by wildlife to those species tolerant of human presence. Wildlife observed during the November 2003 site visit included Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), mallard *(Anas platyrhynchos*), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), European

starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), and house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). No evidence of ground squirrel burrows or gopher mounds were observed in the project area during the November 2003 site visit.

Riparian Scrub

The creek bank along Los Alamitos Creek and portions of the Almaden Lake shoreline supports thickets of riparian scrub. The vegetation is comprised of willow (*Salix* sp.), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis)*, Himalaya berry (*Rubus procerus)*, California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus)*, mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana)* and mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*).

The limit of the riparian corridor, as defined in the City's Riparian Corridor Policy, is the outside edge of the riparian habitat or top of bank, whichever is greater. The riparian scrub occurs within the extent of the riparian corridor. In general, the riparian habitat is one of the highest value habitats for wildlife species diversity and abundance in California. Factors that contribute to the high wildlife value include the presence of surface water, the variety of niches provided by the habitat, and the abundance of plant growth. The value to wildlife of this portion of the riparian corridor is relatively low because of the narrow width of vegetation, adjacent urban development along the creek, and limited structural diversity (i.e., presence of only scrub layer). Riparian habitat adjacent to the project site may occasionally be used by wildlife for food, water, escape cover, and nesting.

Common wildlife species that were observed, or are expected, to inhabit the riparian scrub at this project site include Pacific treefrog *(Hyla regilla)*, black phoebe, scrub jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*). Special status wildlife species that may occur in the riparian scrub include California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*).

Landscape Tree Groves

The project area supports several groves of planted landscape trees. Most of these trees are non-native and include Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinensis)*, London plane tree (*Platanus acerifolia)*, pepper tree (*Schinus* sp.), and eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.). Several live oak (*Quercus sp.)* trees are planted near the proposed group picnic area.

Raptors may occasionally nest in trees within the general project vicinity (i.e., large sycamores in the riparian woodland along Los Alamitos Creek to the south). The eucalyptus trees adjacent to Winfield Boulevard and the small oaks near the proposed group picnic area do not have a dense canopy cover adequate to conceal a raptor nest.

Open Water

Almaden Lake, within the proposed boat ramp/launch facility area and adjacent to the trail connector beneath Coleman Road, supports open water. The water level during the November 2003 field surveys was at an elevation of approximately 190 feet (msl), based on project's topographic map. A flashboard dam is maintained by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) so the water surface is typically maintained at this elevation. A formal wetlands delineation (Waters of the U.S.) was conducted for the project area and confirmed that the jurisdictional area extends one to two feet above the existing water surface elevation (to approximately the 192-foot elevation). Fill activities within these jurisdictional areas

are regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The open water habitat within the project area is adjacent to bare sand shoreline with only sparse occurrences of weedy plants. These areas provide marginal wildlife habitat. As described above, species more tolerant of human presence (such as geese and ducks) may occasionally utilize this habitat. Wildlife observed utilizing the open water further offshore and the areas of marsh vegetation near the inlet of Alamitos Creek included pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), common merganser (*Mergus merganser*), American coot (*Fulica americana*), and western gull (*Larus occidentalis*). In addition, a colony of snowy egrets (*Egretta thula*) and great egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) were observed roosting on an island approximately 200 feet offshore from the proposed boat dock location.

Special status wildlife species that may utilize this wetland fringe and open water habitat area include steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and California red-legged frog. The project site lacks substantial basking, foraging, and cover sites for pond turtles, and they are not expected to inhabit this area.

Riverine Wetlands and Freshwater Marsh

Plant species typical of freshwater marsh were observed along the toe of Almaden Lake, immediately upstream and downstream of the Coleman Road overpass. The dominant plant species are bulrush (*Scirpus* sp.), cattail (*Typha* sp.), nutgrass (*Cyperus eragrostis)* and rabbitsfoot grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis).* Plant species typical of riverine wetlands were observed along Los Alamitos Creek, immediately upstream of the lake and near the proposed group picnic area. The dominant plant species in this area are bulrush and cattail. Patches of freshwater marsh were observed near the areas proposed for the boat ramp and floating dock. The marsh vegetation is limited to a small area located south of the proposed facilities. This marsh patch is comprised of young arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis)*, cattail, mulefat, dallis grass (*Paspalum dilatatum),* willow herb (*Epilobium ciliatum),* water smartweed (*Polygonum persicaria*), nutgrass (*Cyperus eragrostis),* water primrose (*Ludwigia peploides ssp. peploides)*, common plantain, and curly dock (*Rumex crispus)*.

Wildlife utilization of the freshwater marsh habitat is expected to be similar to that identified for the shoreline edge areas. The presence of wetland plants, such as cattail and bulrush, increases the wildlife value of the wetland habitat by providing cover, breeding sites, and a food base of diverse aquatic invertebrate fauna. Common wildlife species that utilize the wetland edges include Pacific tree frog *(Hyla regilla)*, western aquatic garter snake (*Thamnophis couchii*), mallard *(Anas platyrhynchos)*, red-winged blackbird *(Agelaius phoeniceus),* black phoebe *(Sayornis nigricans),* cliff swallow *(Hirundo pyrrhonota)*, raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), and several species of bats.

Sensitive Biotic Resources

<u>Sensitive Habitats</u>

Sensitive habitats are defined by local, state, or federal agencies as those habitats that support special status species, provide important habitat values for wildlife, represent areas of unusual or regionally restricted habitat types, and/or provide high biological diversity. Three habitats in the project area are considered sensitive due to their importance to wildlife species: the riparian scrub, freshwater marsh, and open water habitats.

The City of San Jose's Riparian Corridor Policy Study (1999) identifies minimum setbacks between development and riparian corridors. The policy defines the riparian corridor as the outer edge of the riparian vegetation or the top-of-bank, whichever is greater. The policy recommends a minimum setback of 10 feet for multi-use trails, although trails can enter the corridor in order to maintain continuity (City of San Jose Riparian Policy Study, March 1999, Guideline 4C). The policy recommends that active recreational facilities be placed 100 feet from the riparian corridor.

The proposed park improvements would be consistent with the City of San Jose's Riparian Corridor Policy. Although the trail connector beneath Coleman Road would be located within 10 feet of the riparian corridor, this encroachment is required to provide trail continuity to existing trails north of the bridge. Both the group picnic area and the boat ramp facilities are proposed within the 100-foot riparian setback area. The boat ramp access is consistent with Guideline 4D of the City's Riparian Corridor Policy, which allows creek access points designed to accommodate fishing and small boat access. The group picnic area is located on irrigated turf and ruderal grassland, which has low habitat value. Because the group picnic site is of low habitat value and the proposed use is considered passive and intermittent (with no night use or lighting), its presence within the 100-foot riparian setback is consistent with Guideline 4A of the City's Riparian Corridor Policy.

Ordinance and Heritage Trees

The City of San Jose has a tree removal ordinance which provides a discretionary permit process for the removal of trees over 18 inches in diameter at a height of two feet from the ground (City of San Jose Civil Code 13.32.020). A tree removal permit is required from the City of San Jose for removal of ordinance-sized trees; however, such a permit is typically not required for public park projects (Jean Lin, City of San Jose Planning, memo dated August 8, 2002).

Prior to issuance of any approval for construction of an improvement project, the City of San Jose requires that all trees on the project site be inventoried and categorized according to size, species, and location. The City documented the location of each tree trunk within the proposed improvement areas during their site surveying work. The survey documented 36 trees within the vicinity of the proposed group picnic area and 33 trees in and around the proposed boat ramp facility. BRG counted 22 trees in the vicinity of the trail near the Coleman Road undercrossing (i.e., park landscape trees). The project proposes to remove 28 non-native trees for the park improvements. Eight of these trees are ordinance-sized. An inventory of these trees and their locations is provided in Appendix C. Impacts from tree removal are addressed below.

Any tree found by the City to have special significance can be designated as a heritage tree, regardless of tree species or size. City-designated heritage trees are considered sensitive resources. It is unlawful to vandalize, mutilate, remove or destroy heritage trees. There are no City-designated heritage trees in the project study area, as per the City's heritage tree list (City of San Jose, 2001).

Special Status Plant Species

Plant species of concern include those listed by either the federal or state resource agencies, and those

identified as rare by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Based on a search of the CNPS and California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) inventories for the project area, approximately 13 special status plant species have the potential to occur in the project vicinity. However, no special status plant species have been observed within the boundaries of the project. Based on the field review in November 2003, the potential for special status plant species is considered low due to the lack of suitable habitat for sensitive plant species (e.g., absence of serpentine grassland, coastal prairie, chaparral, and vernal pools) and the disturbed nature of the project area. No special status plant species are expected to occur on the site.

Special Status Wildlife Species

Special status wildlife species include those listed by either the federal or state resource agencies, as well as those identified as federal and/or state species of special concern. In addition, all raptor nests are protected by California Fish and Game Code, and all migratory bird nests are protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Based on a search of the CNDDB inventories and a review of pertinent literature, approximately 11 special status wildlife species have the potential to occur in the project vicinity. These special status wildlife species were evaluated for their potential presence in the project area; those expected to occur are described below.

Other special status species that are known from portions of San Jose were evaluated for their potential to occur at this site, but for the following reasons are not expected to occur here. California tiger salamanders (*Ambystoma californiense*) occur in ponds over five miles to the west and south of this site (CDFG 2003). However, tiger salamanders are not associated with creeks in the Santa Clara Valley (Harvey & Assoc., 1999), and the nearby upland areas lack burrows suitable for upland aestivation sites for this species. The high human use of the park and presence of several non-native predators (e.g., bass, bullfrogs) also make it unlikely that this site is occupied by California tiger salamanders.

Although raptors may occasionally nest in trees within the general project vicinity (i.e., large sycamores in the riparian woodland along Los Alamitos Creek further to the south), the project would not remove any of these native trees. The eucalyptus trees adjacent to Winfield Boulevard and the small oaks near the proposed group picnic area do not have dense canopy cover adequate to conceal a raptor nest. In addition, because suitable raptor-nest trees along Los Alamitos Creek are located over 100 feet from the park improvements, it is not expected that construction noise will adversely affect potential raptor-nesting in the project vicinity.

Burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia hypugea*) are not expected to occur in the grassland/ruderal habitat at this site because the area lacks suitable burrows, and high human use of the area is unfavorable to this species.

Steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) are a state species of special concern and federally listed as threatened. Steelhead are anadromous fish that migrate from the ocean up freshwater creeks and rivers to spawn. Young steelhead typically remain in freshwater for two years before migrating to the ocean or bay. They typically spend 2-3 years in marine waters before returning to their natal stream to spawn. Steelhead

often spawn more than once before they die, and spawning usually occurs between December and June. Gravel substrates are the optimum spawning habitat for steelhead.

Steelhead occur in nearby Guadalupe Creek (CDFG, 2003). The confluence of Los Alamitos Creek and Guadalupe Creek is located just downstream of Coleman Road. The dam at the Guadalupe Reservoir, located about five miles upstream of the confluence, is a barrier to steelhead movement. Steelhead are also recorded from Los Alamitos Creek. Historically, steelhead may have existed throughout the Guadalupe River system; however, after completion of the Almaden and Guadalupe Reservoirs in the mid-1930's and Lexington reservoir in 1952, steelhead migration was restricted to tributary streams downstream of the dams and the size of the steelhead runs declined. Until fall 1999, steelhead entering the Guadalupe River system were prevented from migrating to upstream spawning and rearing areas on tributary streams by the SCVWD's Alamitos drop structures, located near Blossom Hill Road (SCVWD 2001). A fish passage ladder was installed in 1999, and steelhead are now thought to be re-extending their range into Guadalupe Creek upstream to Guadalupe Reservoir and in Los Alamitos Creek upstream to Almaden Reservoir (SCVWD, 2001). The Almaden Lake project area, however, contains only marginal rearing habitat for this species. Steelhead were not observed during the site surveys, but Los Alamitos Creek provides suitable habitat for this species.

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries, are a federal candidate species. Although there is no historic account of Chinook salmon migrating and spawning in the Guadalupe River or Los Alamitos Creek, fall-run Chinook salmon have been found in the Guadalupe River during the last decade (SCVWD, 2001). The current Chinook salmon population may be strays from wild or hatchery population in the Sacramento – San Joaquin River System. Chinook salmon now migrate up the Guadalupe River with the majority appearing to spawn in and around the downtown San Jose Area (downstream of the proposed project site) (SCVWD, 2001). Chinook salmon were not observed during the site surveys and the species is not expected in the project area because it is further upstream of its current known range. Also, the status of the Chinook in the Guadalupe River system (i.e., if it is hatchery fish or stray) has not been determined.

California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) is a state species of special concern and Federally listed as threatened. This species is found in quiet pools along streams, in marshes, and ponds. This species breeding season spans January to April. Habitat requirements include fresh emergent or dense riparian vegetation, especially willows adjacent to shorelines. Red-legged frogs can survive in seasonal bodies of water that are dry for short periods if a permanent water body or dense vegetation is nearby.

California red-legged frogs have been observed in Guadalupe Creek 1.5 miles downstream of Guadalupe Reservoir, approximately five miles from this project site (Harvey and Assoc. 1997; CDFG 2003). Surveys for red-legged frogs have been conducted within the last five years along Guadalupe Creek (including the percolation ponds) and Los Alamitos Creek by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Jones & Stokes, and USFWS; these surveys have not found any red-legged frogs (Doug Padley, SCVWD Wildlife Biologist, pers. comm.). Dr. Mark Jennings considers the red-legged frog to be extirpated from this portion of San Jose (Harvey and Assoc. 1997). Almaden Lake supports populations of non-native predators such as bass, carp and bullfrogs, which reduce the value of the lake habitat for native frog

breeding habitat. In addition, the sparse vegetative cover around the shoreline of the lake and the high human use at the park, reduces the possibility that red-legged frogs may maintain a population at this site. The bare shoreline at the site of the proposed boat ramp facility, combined with the large number of non-native predators and high human use, makes it very unlikely that California red-legged frogs would utilize that particular site.

Southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*) is a federal and state species of special concern. This aquatic turtle inhabits ponds, lakes, streams, marshes, and other permanent waters located in woodland, grassland, and open forests below 6,000 feet. Pond turtles can often be seen basking in the sun on partially submerged logs, rocks, mats of floating vegetation or mud banks. During cold weather, they hibernate in bottom mud. The diet of these turtles consists of aquatic vegetation, insects, fish, worms, and carrion.

Pond turtles are known to occur in upstream portions of Guadalupe Creek (CDFG 2003). No pond turtles have been observed in recent years along Los Alamitos Creek, the percolation ponds, lower portions of Guadalupe Creek, or at Almaden Lake (Doug Padley, SCVWD Wildlife Biologist, pers. comm.). Non-native slider turtles have been observed in this area in recent years, but their effect on native pond turtles is unknown. Other non-native species that occur in Almaden Lake (e.g., bass, carp and bullfrogs) are known to prey on hatchling turtles. The combination of high human use at this park, the presence of non-native predators, the lack of observations of pond turtles in many years, makes it unlikely that this species still occurs along the lower portion of Los Alamitos Creek or Almaden Lake.

Regulated Habitats

As described above for the open water habitat, Almaden Lake is a jurisdictional water regulated by the ACOE pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The delineation of Waters of the U.S., prepared for the project by Biotic Resources Group, determined that the jurisdictional boundary corresponds with the 192-foot contour of the lake (refer to Appendix B). The placement of fill into jurisdictional waters is subject to the permit requirements of the ACOE. An ACOE permit also requires state water quality certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, granted by the RWQCB. In addition, activities within the lake are subject to the requirements of the California Department of Fish and Game under Sections 1601-1603 of the California Fish and Game Code, which call for a Streambed Alteration Agreement. Approximately 200 square feet of jurisdictional waters would be affected by the proposed placement of the boat ramp and floating dock in the lake.

Impacts and Mitigation

Thresholds per CEQA checklist:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

			Mitigation Incorporated		
4.	**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:**				
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X		
b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X		
c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?		X		
d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?		X		
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?		X		
f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?				X

Discussion

Direct and Indirect Impacts to the Riparian Scrub, Freshwater Marsh and Open Water Habitats

The project proposes the construction of a boat ramp and floating docks within Almaden Lake. The project also includes an access trail to the boat ramp and a multi-use trail beneath Coleman Road, which will be located within 10 feet of the lake. All of this work, however, is proposed outside the riparian and wetland habitats. The boat ramp supports and the floating docks would be placed within the open water habitat of Almaden Lake.

Construction activities associated with the project may result in indirect impacts to the riparian and wetland habitat within Almaden Lake. This may occur through inadvertent construction access into the riparian scrub and wetlands or sediments entering these habitats or the lake during or after construction. Because earthmoving activities associated with trail construction and installation of the boat ramp supports will loosen

soils and sediments immediately adjacent to the lake, these activities could result in the release of short-term pulses of sediment into the lake during the first series of storms after project construction. Increased sediment in the lake can be transported downstream into Guadalupe Creek. These actions may affect the quality of the riparian, wetland habitat, and open water habitats.

The proposed park improvements include three security lights along the existing trail on the east side of the park. These lights would consist of 55 watt, low-pressure sodium luminaire directed downward and away from the riparian corridor. Since these lights would be directed away from the riparian corridor and shut off by 9 PM, no significant indirect impacts to wetland or riparian resources would occur. The proposed lighting would be in conformance with the City of San Jose's Riparian Corridor and Outdoor Lighting Policies.

The project would result in an increase in human use immediately adjacent to the lake from recreational users along the trail connection beneath Coleman Road, at the improved boat facilities, and at the group picnic area. The intensification in recreational uses may adversely affect area wildlife utilizing the lake area.

The impacts to the riparian, wetland, and open water habitats are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1
Riparian Habitat – Impact Acreage & Mitigation

Habitat Type/Resource	Impact Type	Impact Acreage	Mitigation Acreage Proposed	Mitigation Ratio
Riparian Scrub	Direct impact to riparian scrub	None	None	NA
	Indirect impact to riparian scrub vegetation	None	None	NA
	Indirect impact to riparian wildlife from close proximity of facilities to riparian habitat, creek and lake	Approx. 300 linear feet	900 square feet (Revegetation of scrub w/in setback area, mitigation measure #2)	3:1
Total			**900 square feet**	

Table 2
Wetland and Open Water Habitats - Impact Acreage & Mitigation

Habitat Type/Resource	Impact Type	Impact Acreage	Mitigation Acreage Proposed	Mitigation Ratio
Waters of the U.S.				
Other Waters of the U.S. (open water)	Direct impact to Almaden Lake	Approx. 200 sq. ft.	None	N/A
	Indirect impact by side cast materials or sedimentation	None (with implementation of mitigation measure #1)	None	N/A
Freshwater Marsh/ Riverine Wetlands	Direct impact to wetlands	None	None	N/A
	Indirect impact by side cast materials or sedimentation	None (with implementation of mitigation measure #1)	None	N/A
	Indirect impact to marsh vegetation	None	None	**NA**
Total			**None**	**N/A**

Implementation of the mitigation below (#1 and #2) would reduce impacts to riparian, wetland, and open water habitats to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation

- Measure 1: To avoid indirect impacts to riparian, wetland and open water habitat that occur in and along the banks of Los Alamitos Creek and Almaden Lake, the City Parks Division shall incorporate the following Best Management Practices (BMP's) to preclude erosion or sediments from entering Los Alamitos Creek and Almaden Lake during and after construction of the proposed trails and boat ramp facilities:

    - Prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP);
    - Conduct construction activities within 20 feet of the riparian scrub during the dry season;
    - Divert concentrated runoff away from channel banks;
    - Minimize vegetation removal;
    - Identify with construction fencing all areas that require clearing, grading revegetation or otherwise disturbed;
    - Stabilize disturbed soils to minimize erosion and sediment input to the creek;
    - Implement erosion control measures to prevent sediment from entering the creek channel, including the use of silt fencing or fiber rolls to trap sediments;
    - Conduct erosion control seeding of all disturbed areas as soon as practicable after disturbance following construction;
    - Monitor the effectiveness of the erosion control measures during the first year's rainy season and implement remedial measures (e.g., reseeding, repair of silt fencing) if sedimentation or erosion is noted.

- Measure 2: The City Parks Division shall implement the following measures to compensate for indirect impacts to riparian scrub during construction, the close proximity of the recreational facilities to Los Alamitos Creek and Almaden Lake, and potential indirect impacts to riparian and lake wildlife from an increase in park use:

    - Install a 3-foot high fence (i.e., open, split-rail type, or similar) between the trail connector beneath Coleman Road and riparian and marsh vegetation along Almaden Lake to create a physical barrier between the trail and the habitat areas.

    - Along the east bank of Los Alamitos Creek near the proposed group picnic area, implement a revegetation plan that creates riparian scrub and vegetative barrier plantings between the group picnic area and the creek.

    - Along the bank of Almaden Lake, adjacent to the proposed boat ramp facilities, install a 3-foot high fence (i.e., open, split-rail type, or similar) between the boat ramp facilities and the riparian and freshwater marsh vegetation along the lake to create a physical barrier between the trail and the retained habitat.

    - The City Parks Division shall prepare and implement the revegetation plan for the establishment of the riparian scrub and vegetative barrier plantings along Los Alamitos Creek (approximately 900 square feet). The plan shall specify that the detailed location of all plantings, the use of locally native

riparian plant species (obtained within the Guadalupe watershed), and specify a 5-year maintenance and monitoring program. The plan shall specify that the City shall monitor the revegetation areas a minimum of once a year. During each year of the 5-year monitoring period, plantings shall achieve a minimum 80% survival rate for the revegetation to be deemed successful. Plant species recommended for the revegetation are listed on Table 3.

- The City Parks Division shall prepare yearly monitoring reports and submit these reports to the City of San Jose Planning Department's Environmental Principal Planner and any necessary environmental regulatory agencies at the end of each monitoring year. The reports shall identify the plant survival rate, maintenance actions at the site and include photographs documenting the status of the revegetation. The City Parks Division shall implement remedial measures should the success criteria not be achieved in any of the five monitoring years. Remedial measures may include replacement plantings, an increase in maintenance or changes to the irrigation regime.

- Measure 3: To ensure consistency with the City's tree protection ordinance, the City Parks Division shall prepare and implement a planting plan that will include the replacement of removed trees. This plan shall be separate from the riparian revegetation plan, and subject to review and approval by the Director of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement.

Table 3
Recommended Planting List for Riparian Scrub & Barrier Plantings

Common Name	Scientific Name	Spacing	Approx No. for 900 sq. ft. (0.02 acre)
Riparian Scrub Plantings			
Blue Elderberry	*Sambucus mexicana*	8' o.c.	4
Mulefat	*Baccharis salicifolia*	8' o.c.	2
Barrier Plantings			
Blue Elderberry	*Sambucus mexicana*	8' o.c.	2
California Rose	*Rosa californica*	8' o.c.	2
Toyon	*Heteromeles arbutifolia*	8' o.c.	2
Coffee Berry	*Rhamnus californica*	8' o.c.	2
Coyote Brush	*Baccharis pilularis*	8' o.c.	2

Table 4
Summary of Impacts to Special Status Wildlife Species & Mitigation

Wildlife Resource	Impact Type	Impact Potential Type P = Potential NP = No Potential	Mitigation Proposed
Potential Steelhead or Salmon Spawning or Rearing Habitat	Direct impact to open water	P	Preconstruction surveys and relocation of fish (mitigation measure #3)

	Indirect impact to open water	P (sedimentation, erosion)	Construction BMP's (mitigation measure #1)
California Red-legged Frog	Potential take of individuals during construction	NP	Suitable habitat not present at work site; breeding habitat not present at work site
Western Pond Turtle	Potential take of nesting habitat	NP	Suitable nesting habitat not present on project site; open water habitat not suitable for turtles

Impacts to Steelhead and Chinook Salmon

Potential impacts to special status wildlife species are summarized in Table 4. Individuals of federally listed species (i.e., steelhead) may be injured or killed by heavy equipment during construction of the boat ramp footings, if they occur in the open water habitat at that site. Indirect impacts to steelhead and salmon may include increased sediments in the water (which may damage the fish gills and reduce their ability to see and capture prey).

Construction of the boat dock could increase fishing activity in the lake, although no expansion in park use is proposed. Fishing in Almaden Lake is regulated by the CDFG. As part of this project, the City proposes to post the most current fishing regulations related to special status fish species (i.e., steelhead, salmon), and indicate that such species must be released.

Implementation of the mitigation below, together with measure 1 above, would reduce impacts to steelhead and salmon to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation

- Measure 4: A qualified fisheries biologist, under contract to the City, shall conduct pre-construction surveys for steelhead and salmon. The City shall consult with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and CDFG to determine appropriate survey protocol. Surveys may include use of a block net or other device to prevent steelhead or salmon from entering the work area, and electroshocking to remove and relocate steelhead or salmon within the work area. The capture and relocation of steelhead or salmon, if required by NMFS, shall be authorized by a Biological Opinion from NMFS as part of the ACOE section 404 permit process.

Tree Removal

The project proposes to remove 28 non-native trees for the park improvements. A summary of the trees, indicating type, size, and condition, is presented in Table 5. The locations of these trees are illustrated in Appendix C. As shown in Table 5, eight of the 28 trees to be removed are ordinance-sized. The removal of eight ordinance-sized trees without replacement would result in a potentially significant impact with regards to the City?s tree protection ordinance. The project would mitigate the potential impacts from tree removal through the planting of replacement trees, as set forth below.

Mitigation

- See Mitigation Measure 3 above.

- All trees to be removed from the project site shall be replaced in accordance with the City of San Jose?s standards, presented below. The replacement trees shall be shown on a planting plan, subject to review and approval by the Director of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement.

City of San Jose Tree Replacement Standards		
Diameter of Removed Tree	**Replacement Ratio**	**Replacement Tree Size**
0-12 inches	1:1	15 gallon
12-17 inches	2:1	24 inch box
18+ inches	4:1	24 inch box

Table 5
Tree Summary

No	Scientific Name	Common Name	Size (dbh)	Condition
1	*Acacia sp.*	Acacia	6”	5
2	*Schinus sp.*	Pepper	10”	5
3	*Eucalyptus sp.*	Blue Gum	16”	5
4	*Schinus sp.*	Pepper	14”	5
5	*Eucalyptus sp.*	Blue Gum	10”	5
6	*Schinus sp.*	Pepper	14”	5
7	*Schinus sp.*	Pepper	12”	5
8	*Robinia pseudoacacia*	Locust	6”	5
9	*Eucalyptus sp.*	Blue Gum	16”	5
10	*Eucalyptus sp.*	Blue Gum	12”	5
11	*Robinia pseudoacacia*	Locust	6”	5
12	***Eucalyptus sp.***	**Blue Gum**	**20”**	**5**
13	*Eucalyptus sp.*	Blue Gum	16”	5
14	***Eucalyptus sp.***	**Blue Gum**	**22”**	**5**
15	***Eucalyptus sp.***	**Blue Gum**	**36”**	**5**
16	*Schinus sp.*	Pepper	16”	5

Table 5
Tree Summary

17	*Schinus sp.*	Pepper	15”	5
18	*Schinus sp.*	Pepper	8”	5
19	***Schinus sp.***	**Pepper**	**18”**	**5**
20	*Schinus sp.*	Pepper	8”	5
21	***Eucalyptus sp.***	**Blue Gum**	**15”**	**5**
22	***Eucalyptus sp.***	**Blue Gum**	**18”**	**5**
23	***Eucalyptus sp.***	**Blue Gum**	**34”**	**5**
24	***Schinus sp.***	**Pepper**	**24”**	**5**
25	*Acer negundo var. californicum*	Box Elder	4”	5
26	*Acer negundo var. californicum*	Box Elder	3”	5
27	*Acer negundo var. californicum*	Box Elder	3”	5
28	*Acer negundo var. californicum*	Box Elder	3”	5

Notes: dbh = diameter at breast height
Ordinance sized trees (18 inches in diameter or greater) are shown in bold.
Condition is judged on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 representing very poor and 5 representing excellent.
Numbers correspond to tree locations shown in Appendix C.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Setting

An archaeological investigation was completed for the project by Basin Research Associates (December 2003). This report is on file with the City of San Jose. The archaeological investigation included an archival search and site survey. A prehistoric and historic site records and literature search was completed for the project area by the California Historical Resources Information System, Northwest Information Center (CHRIS/NWIC). Reference material from the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley and material on file at Basin Research Associates was also consulted for the investigation.

A total of 12 reports for the project and/or adjacent areas were found on file at the CHRIS/NWIC, as well as two additional reports. These reports indicated that no resources were identified during prior archival and survey research efforts in the project area.

No California Register listed, determined, or pending archaeological sites, significant local, state, or federal historic properties, landmarks, etc. have been identified in or adjacent to the project. No known Hispanic Period dwellings, roads, or other features are located in or adjacent to the project site.

One historic era complex (P-43-000697) has been recorded within the proposed improvement area. This complex consists of a former small house with additions, tank house, well house, garage-shed, and large barn. Prior research on this site found that the property was not historically significant. The buildings associated with this complex are no longer present on the site.

Flood control projects along Alamitos Creek and disturbance of the project site from various activities appear to have destroyed evidence of potential archaeological resources.

Impacts and Mitigation

Thresholds per CEQA checklist:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
5. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA 15064.5?				X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA 5064.5?		X		
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				X

Discussion

Based on the review of pertinent records and lack of documented prehistoric or historic resources on the project site, additional subsurface testing for buried resources and monitoring during construction is not recommended. However, in the event that buried archaeological resources are encountered, the following mitigation shall be implemented. These measures would reduce potentially significant impacts to buried archaeological resources to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation

- If any cultural materials are exposed or discovered during either site preparation or subsurface construction activities, operations shall be halted within 25 feet of the find and a qualified professional archaeologist contacted for evaluation and further recommendations. Potential recommendations could include evaluation, collection, recordation, analysis, and reporting of any significant cultural materials. If the find is determined to be significant, a mitigation program shall be prepared and submitted to the Director of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement for consideration and approval.

- Treatment of any Native American burials exposed during construction shall be conducted in accordance with the State of California Public Resources Code in consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Setting

The following discussion is based on a geotechnical investigation prepared for the project by GeoForensics, Inc. This investigation included a site survey, review of pertinent maps and data, subsurface testing, and recommendations for development. This report is contained in Appendix D.

Almaden Lake Park site is located at an elevation of approximately 200 feet (msl). The surrounding ground surface generally slopes slightly to moderately towards the lake, with gradients ranging from 20:1 to 10:1. Along the margins of the lake, the ground surface steepens with gradients of up to 2:1. Observations indicate that cuts have historically been made west of the park, although grading within the park is not readily apparent.

Geology

The project site is mapped as being underlain by alluvial and fluvial deposits. These materials generally consist of brown dense gravelly and clayey sand or clayey gravel and fines upward to sandy clay. These deposits have variable sorting and are located along most stream channels in the County.

Subsurface borings were drilled at four locations within the proposed improvement areas (one on the north side and three on the east side). In addition, one cone penetration test (CPT) was made on the east side

of the park. The boring locations are shown in Appendix D (figure 4).

Boring 1 penetrated four feet of very stiff sandy clay with gravel. This material was underlain by gravelly sand with varying amounts of dense to very dense clay to the terminated boring depth of 21.5 feet below ground surface (bgs). Boring 2 encountered 1.5 feet of bark at the surface, underlain with very dense gravelly sand with clay to a depth of 9.5 feet bgs. Boring 3 penetrated two feet of fine sand underlain by very dense gravelly sand with trace amounts of clay. At a depth of five feet, the drill met an obstacle that it could not penetrate. The hard materials encountered may consist of hard bedrock or may be a buried manmade structure. However, the ability of CPT to penetrate 30 feet below this elevation suggests that it was likely a manmade structure. Boring 4 (on the northwest side of the park) encountered 6.5 feet of very stiff to hard gravelly sandy clay.

The CPT showed that the upper three feet of soil consisted of sands and gravelly sands in a medium dense condition. From three to six feet, the sounding encountered a stiff sandy silt. Below the silt, dense to very dense sands extended to the termination of the sounding at 40 feet bgs.

Free groundwater was encountered at a depth of 16 feet during the drilling of Boring 1, although it was not encountered in any of the other drillings. The CPT indicates that groundwater was most likely encountered at a depth of 15 feet bgs.

Soil liquefaction is a natural phenomenon that occurs when saturated, loose soils lose strength and liquefy during seismic ground shaking. The project site is mapped by Santa Clara County as containing liquefiable soils. However, the results of the CPT and borings show that the east portion of the park is underlain by dense sands, which are not susceptible to liquefaction. Based on the findings of the geotechnical investigation, the potential for landslide, ground subsidence, ground rupture, and lateral spreading on the site is low.

Seismicity

The project site is located in the seismically-active San Francisco Bay Area. Three major fault zones extend through the Bay Area: the San Andreas Fault, located approximately five miles to the southwest of the project; the Calaveras Fault, located approximately 13 miles to the northeast; and the Hayward Fault, located near the Calaveras Fault about 11 miles to the northeast.

Impacts and Mitigation

Thresholds per CEQA checklist:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

			Incorporated		
6.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a)	Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i)	Rupture of a know earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42?		X		
ii)	Strong seismic ground shaking?		X		
iii)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			X	
iv)	Landslides?				X
b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?		X		
c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				X
d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				X
e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				X

Discussion

The proposed renovations would require grading, particularly for the trail connection beneath Coleman Road and the marina area. Grading would involve the movement of approximately 995 cubic yards (CY) of fill and approximately 1,358 cubic yards of cut. This would require the export of approximately 463 CY of material from the site.

According to the geotechnical investigation, the project site would be suitable for the proposed improvements. Geotechnical development of the site would be aided by the strong nature of the non-expansive materials that cover the property. The recommendations of the geotechnical investigation would be incorporated into the design and construction of the proposed park improvements.

Due to its location near several major faults, the project would be subject to moderate to strong ground shaking from earthquakes on any of the nearby active fault systems during its design life. The geotechnical investigation determined a maximum-credible site acceleration of 0.46 g, and a maximum-probable acceleration of 0.38 g, based on a maximum-credible seismic event of 8.0 and maximum-probable seismic event of 7.3. Seismic ground shaking would result in potential damage or destruction of proposed

structures on the site.

Geologic impacts on the site would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the following mitigation.

Mitigation

- The project shall incorporate all recommendations set forth in the geotechnical investigation prepared for the development by GeoForensics, Inc. (September 23, 2003).

- The project shall be designed in accordance with the seismic requirements of CBC/UBC for seismic zone 4.

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Setting

No hazardous materials are stored on the project site. Surrounding uses are primarily residential, which do not use, store, or handle significant amounts of hazardous materials. A Phase I analysis was completed for the Guadalupe River Trail Bridge project located just north of Almaden Lake (April 2003). The results of this assessment did not identify any hazardous materials releases on or in the immediate vicinity of the project site.

The Guadalupe Creek corridor, tributary to Los Alamitos Creek and Almaden Lake, has been impacted by historic cinnabar mining for mercury, which took place in the upstream areas of Guadalupe Creek between 1854-1976. Guadalupe Creek has been identified by the State Water Quality Control Board as "impaired" by mercury contamination.

The SCVWD plans to implement a soil management plan as part of its Guadalupe Creek Restoration Project. The soil management plan sets forth measures to clean or remove contaminated material to minimize discharges of sediments containing mercury.

Impacts and Mitigation

Thresholds per CEQA checklist:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
7. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?		X		

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within ¼ mile of an existing or proposed school?				X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				X

Discussion

The project does not propose the use or storage of hazardous materials. In addition, there is no evidence of hazardous materials use or contamination on or near the project site. Former mining operations have resulted in mercury contamination of the Guadalupe Creek corridor.

Grading for the proposed project would require the disturbance and removal of soil that may be contaminated with mercury, a known human health hazard. The following mitigation is identified to reduce this hazardous material impact to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation

- Prior to construction, soil to be disturbed or removed from the project site shall be randomly sampled to determine mercury levels, and the following actions taken as applicable:
    - If mercury levels are above the thresholds established in Title 22 of the California Code (20 ppm), the following actions shall be taken: 1) transport all contaminated soil in accordance with the City of San Jose Code and Title 13 of the California Code, 2) dispose of all contaminated soils at an appropriately licensed disposal facility; and 3) inform the contractor of the presence of mercury so that appropriate health and safety measures are provided for construction workers.

- If mercury levels exceed the RWQCB's Environmental Screening Levels (or similar health-based standard), the contaminated soils shall be disposed of at an appropriately licensed disposal facility.

- If mercury levels do not exceed the RWQCB's Environmental Screening Levels (or similar health-based standard), the soil may be reused onsite.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Setting

Drainage/Flooding

The proposed improvements are located along the north and east sides of Almaden Lake. The lake was artificially created by damming a portion of Los Alamitos Creek. The outfall of the lake is located at the Coleman Road bridge. From this outfall, Los Alamitos Creek flows north as a stream channel. Guadalupe Creek flows into Los Alamitos Creek at approximately 160 feet north of the Coleman Road bridge. The creek continues north, but is referred to as the Guadalupe River north of its confluence with Guadalupe Creek. The Guadalupe River ultimately drains into San Francisco Bay. Los Alamitos Creek and Guadalupe Creek are owned and managed by the SCVWD for groundwater percolation and flood control purposes.

Based on the flood insurance rate maps prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the flood level of Almaden Lake is at the 197-foot contour. A flashboard dam is maintained by the SCVWD that maintains the normal water surface level in the lake between the 190- and 192-foot elevations. The delineation of Waters of the U.S. prepared for the project determined that the open waters at the 192-foot contour of Almaden Lake are within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The existing drainage pattern on the east side of the park is generally divided by the existing pedestrian/bicycle trail along the lake. Stormwater runoff on the east side of the trail is directed into catch basins that tie into existing storm drain mainlines that discharge into the lake. Runoff on the west side of the trail generally drains as sheet flow into the lake. Runoff from the parking lot at the north side of the park is also directed into catch basins that tie into storm drain lines that discharge to the lake under existing conditions. No drainage facilities are currently in place at the location of the proposed trail connection near the Coleman Road bridge.

Surface Water Quality

The Guadalupe Creek, tributary to Los Alamitos Creek and Almaden Lake, has been impacted by mercury from former cinnabar mining that took place in the upstream areas of Guadalupe Creek between 1854-1976. The City measured mercury (Hg) concentrations in Almaden Lake from 10/26/01 to 1/4/02 at nine stations in the lake. The mean mercury concentration from all measurements combined was 0.05 parts per billion (ppb). After normalizing these measurements to account for total suspended solids (TSS), the mean mercury concentration was 0.0077 ppb. Additional testing was completed by SCVWD in July of 2003, which detected mercury at lower levels (Tetra Tech, 2003). The mercury levels tested were well below the drinking water standard for mercury of 2.0 ppb.

Because Almaden Lake is used for public swimming, the Parks Division regularly tests the lake for fecal coliform. In 2003, E. Coli levels ranged from less than 10 to 136 MPN/100 ml (most probable number per 100 milliliters). These levels are within the acceptable range for a recreational water facility, which is 200 MPN/100 ml based on state and federal standards. Coliform levels are kept in check by circulation

and aeration pumps, used to circulate water in the swimming area of the lake

during months when the swim beach is open to the public. If future testing shows the E.Coli standard to be exceeded, then public warning and/or restrictions on lake use would be applied.

Water Quality Management

The City Parks Division implements a program of procedures for maintenance and management of City park lands. These management measures set forth procedures for protecting water quality in local waterways and avoiding the introduction of chemicals into the storm drainage system. These management procedures are established for the following activities:

- Landscape Chemical Application
- Vehicle/Equipment Cleaning and Maintenance
- Litter/Debris Control
- Leak Prevention and Management
- Irrigation System Repair (near creeks)
- Spill Control in Field

Impacts and Mitigation

Thresholds per CEQA checklist:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
8. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			X	
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local ground water table level (for example, the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site.		X		
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or			X	

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS		Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?				
e)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			X	
f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?		X		
g)	Place housing within a 100-year flood-hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				X
h)	Place within a 100-year flood-hazard area structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows?			X	
i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?			X	
j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				X

Discussion

Drainage/Flooding

Storm runoff from the site would slightly increase from conversion of undeveloped portions of the site to impervious surfaces. Drainage calculations performed by the project engineer indicate that the net increase in storm water flows from the site, for a 10-year storm, would be 3.45 cubic feet per second. This increase would have a negligible effect on drainage since 1) the net increase in flows would be minor, 2) runoff would be collected into the onsite drainage system, and 3) the project would improve the site with pre- and post-development erosion control facilities (see below). The proposed improvements would not result in an increase in flood potential from this modest increase in peak runoff flows.

The project proposes to maintain the existing drainage pattern on the site. Runoff would be captured in existing and proposed catch basins, directed into the storm drain lines, and discharged into the lake. Landscaping and other measures (outlined below) are proposed in disturbed areas to stabilize soil and prevent erosion. No new catch basins are proposed within the existing parking lots.

Based on FEMA maps, the flood elevations on the project site are at the 197-foot contour for the lake. The normal water level is maintained between the 190 and 192-foot contour. The project proposes the

placement of a floating dock and associated supports within Almaden Lake. Construction details for the proposed floating dock are not available. It is assumed that the floating dock would be anchored to the shore with a bulkhead or similar structure at the edge of the shore, with a set of piers where the dock connects to the gangway. The remainder of the dock would be stabilized with chains and weights. The bulkhead and piers would be placed within the 100-year floodplain and lake. It is unlikely that these small anchoring structures would raise flood elevations; however, additional review may be required by the SCVWD at the time that design details are finalized.

The area between the typical water surface level and the flood contour (190 to 197 feet) would be subject to inundation during the 100-year flood. The upland areas of the park, however, would not be affected by flooding. It is not anticipated that the park facilities would be used during times of heavy rainfall and flooding, thereby avoiding potential flooding hazards to park users.

The likelihood of a seiche in Almaden Lake or dam failure at the lake's outfall is remote. It is possible that a seiche (i.e., oscillation of water like a tidal wave within an enclosed body of water) could occur in the lake in response to an earthquake. Due to the small size and depth of the lake, any seiche that may occur would be insignificant. In addition, it is possible that the dam could be damaged or fail during a major storm event. This would not expose recreational users to flood hazards, since it is not anticipated that the park facilities would be occupied during times of heavy rainfall and flooding.

Water Quality

Construction activities on the project site may result in an increase in erosion affecting the quality of storm water runoff. Grading required for trail construction and installation of the boat ramp supports would loosen soils and sediments immediately adjacent to the lake, resulting in short-term releases of sediment into the lake during the first series of storms after project construction. Increased sediment in the lake may be transported downstream into the Guadalupe River. Eroded soil contains nitrogen, phosphorus, and other nutrients, which can stimulate algae growth and reduce water clarity. The completed project would result in minimal erosion and sedimentation since the site would be stabilized with pavement and landscaping.

San Jose is required to comply with the National Clean Water Act regulations regarding the reduction of non-point source pollutants, as mandated by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The existing storm water program of the NPDES requires municipalities serving greater than 10,000 persons and projects disturbing greater than one acre of land to obtain a NPDES storm water permit. The NPDES storm water program requires the implementation of a variety of measures, including best management practices (BMPs).

The City of San Jose adopted the Post Construction Urban Runoff Management Policy concerning new development in February 1998. This policy states that all new development of 5,000 square feet or greater of new building rooftop or paved area, or 25 or more uncovered parking spaces should incorporate the following: 1) install and maintain post-construction treatment control measures; 2) stencil onsite inlets in conformance with City requirements; and 3) clean onsite inlets a minimum of once per year, prior to the wet season. This policy also identifies vegetative swales or biofilters as the preferred treatment control measures to be used wherever feasible for projects with suitable landscape areas.

The project proponent shall implement the following pre- and post-construction erosion control measures in areas of proposed improvements to minimize water quality impacts to Almaden Lake and its receiving waters:

- Compact and stabilize soil using soil type to match existing
- Hydroseed and plant in accordance with biologist's recommendations
- Match and enhance existing habitat (e.g., grassland, upland scrub)
- Stabilize wave action at lake front (waterline to floodline) with erosion control and planting
- Stabilize and cover waterline to floodline area with erosion control mat
- Seed waterline to floodline area with annual and perennial vegetation/grasses

Potential water quality impacts from the project that could occur during construction would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the following mitigation.

Mitigation

- The project shall obtain the applicable state permits under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), as required by the State Water Resources Control Board, prior to commencement of construction. The project shall prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) in accordance with NPDES regulations.

- The project shall submit an erosion control plan to the City of San Jose and the RWQCB. All proposed erosion control measures shall be established in conformance with the City and County grading ordinances, RWQCB regulations, and the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program.

- Construction of new drainage facilities within or adjacent to the existing parking lot or driveway areas shall use filters, oil and water separators, and/or vegetated swales.

LAND USE

Setting

Existing Land Uses

The project proposes renovations to Almaden Lake Park, a 69.4-acre park facility owned and operated by the City of San Jose. Almaden Lake comprises the majority of the property. Los Alamitos Creek enters Almaden Lake from the south, and exits the lake at its outfall located beneath the Coleman Road bridge. Existing recreational facilities at the park consist of a sand beach and swim area, lawn and picnic areas, barbeques, a tot lot, a snack bar, and a rental concession stand. Activities available at the park include walking, picnicking, fishing, swimming, non-motorized boating, volleyball, and horseshoes. The City Public Works, Parks and Recreation Facilities Division is responsible for park operation and maintenance.

A new pedestrian bridge is currently under construction along the north side of the Coleman Road overcrossing (expected to be completed April 30, 2004). The pedestrian bridge will provide access across Los Alamitos Creek and link several miles of bicycle/pedestrian trail. The proposed trail link at the north end of Almaden Lake would connect to the pedestrian bridge and provide circulation along the entire perimeter of the lake.

The project site was historically used for quarrying operations, until the City acquired the land in the 1970s. Implementation of the Almaden Lake Park Master Plan began in 1982.

Surrounding Land Uses

The project site is located within an urbanized area of San Jose. Almaden Lake Park is bordered by streets on three sides: Almaden Expressway to the west, Coleman Road to the north, and Winfield Boulevard to the east. The park is primarily surrounded by single- and multi-family residential development. The Los Alamitos Creek Trail, a bicycle/pedestrian path, extends along the creek north and south of Almaden Lake Park.

Impacts and Mitigation

Thresholds per CEQA checklist:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
9. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?				X
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			X	
c) Conflict with any applicable Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan?				X

Discussion

The renovations to Almaden Park are proposed as part of the 1982 Almaden Lake Master Plan. Measure P, approved by San Jose voters in November of 2000, will provide the funding for the design and implementation of the improvements. The project is consistent with relevant land use planning documents for the area, including the Almaden Lake Master Plan, the City's Riparian Corridor Policy, the City of San Jose's General Plan, and the 20-Year Strategic Plan for San Jose Parks. The City does not have any habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans.

This Initial Study identifies various land use impacts of the project, associated primarily with construction, in the areas of air quality, biotic resources, water quality, and noise. These impacts would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level with measures to be incorporated into the project as identified in this Initial Study. In general, the project would provide beneficial impacts by improving park services and facilities at Almaden Lake.

NOISE

Setting

The park is located adjacent to Almaden Expressway, Coleman Road, and Winfield Boulevard. Vehicular traffic on these roadways is the dominant source of noise in the area, with Almaden Expressway representing the largest contributor due to its heavy traffic volumes. Activities at the park also represent a minor noise source in the area. Ambient noise levels on the project site have not been measured; noise levels along Almaden Expressway are approximately 60-65 decibels (DNL)1.

Impacts and Mitigation

Thresholds per CEQA checklist:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
11. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?		X		
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?			X	
c) Substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?		X		
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X

Discussion

The park would introduce new and renovated recreational facilities onto the Almaden Park site, including a trail connection, a small marina complex, a boat ramp and floating dock (for non-motorized boats),

1 The DNL (or day/night noise level in decibels) represents the average noise level during a 24-hour period, with a penalty of 10 decibels added to sound occurring between the hours of 10 PM and 7 AM.

playground, and picnic areas. None of these facilities are expected to be a significant source of noise generation. The proposed trail connection would be located beneath the Coleman Road bridge; noise from the roadway would mask any noise generated by users along the path. The proposed improvements on the east side of the park are located a minimum of 200 feet from the nearest residence along Winfield Boulevard. Some noise from the park facilities could be audible at the nearest residences along Winfield. However, noise from the park would be intermittent, and would occur only during daytime hours when the park is open. The noise sources from the park would not be loud or frequent enough to raise the long-term noise levels at nearby residences.

The project would not result in long-term noise increases associated with additional traffic to the site, since the project does not involve an expansion or intensification in use that would generate new vehicle trips. The improvements are intended as an enhancement to the existing park uses.

Ambient noise levels along Almaden Expressway are approximately 60-65 DNL. The City's short-term goal for noise levels at park facilities is 60 DNL. Visitors at the park may occasionally be exposed to noise levels above the 60 DNL goal at locations near Almaden Expressway. However, the noise levels would be generally compatible with the proposed park/trail uses since they are within the acceptable to conditionally acceptable range (Illingworth & Rodkin, Inc., pers. comm., April 2004).

Construction of the proposed project would temporarily increase noise levels at nearby receptors during clearing and building activities. Typical hourly average construction noise levels are 75 dBA to 80 dBA measured at a distance of 100 feet from the construction site during busy construction periods. (These noise levels decrease at a rate of about six dBA per doubling of distance.) Noise levels at nearby residences would intermittently exceed 60-70 dBA. Noise levels produced by heavy-equipment may interfere with normal residential activities during busy construction periods.

The following measures are identified to reduce the potentially significant noise impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation

- Construction shall be limited to 7 AM-7 PM, Monday through Friday, for any onsite or offsite work within 500 feet of any residential unit.

- All internal combustion engines for construction equipment used on the site shall be properly muffled and maintained.

- All stationary noise-generating construction equipment, such as air compressors and portable power generators, shall be located as far as practical from existing residences and businesses. The setback distance would be determined in the field based on changing construction conditions.

- "Quiet Package" equipment shall be used when practical.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Setting

Police and fire protection services are provided to the project site by the City of San Jose Fire and Police Departments. The City Parks Division is responsible for management and maintenance of Almaden Lake Park and the proposed park improvements.

Thresholds per CEQA checklist:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
13. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
a) Fire protection?			X	
b) Police protection?			X	
c) Schools?				X
d) Parks?			X	
e) Other public facilities?				X

Discussion

The project would not significantly impact public services. The proposed improvements would somewhat increase maintenance requirements at Almaden Lake Park. Funding has been made available for design, implementation, and maintenance of the proposed facilities and would not adversely impact the City Park Division's operations.

The project would be constructed in accordance with current fire codes. In addition, final design would be reviewed by City of San Jose Police and Fire Department staff to ensure appropriate safety features are incorporated.

TRANSPORTATION

Setting

The project site is located south of Coleman Road, between Almaden Expressway and Winfield Boulevard. Almaden Expressway and Coleman Road are both major arterial roadways. In the project area, Almaden Expressway has three travel lanes in each direction, with two additional left-turn lanes at its intersection with Coleman Road. Coleman Road has two travel lanes in each direction, with two additional left-turn lanes at its intersection with Almaden Expressway. Winfield Boulevard has two travel lanes in each direction near Coleman Road, and narrows to one lane in each direction south of the park entrance. Access to the project site is provided via one driveway on Almaden Expressway and one driveway on Winfield Boulevard.

Sidewalks are provided on both sides of Almaden Expressway from Coleman Road to the park entrance, on both sides of Coleman Road between Almaden Expressway and Winfield Boulevard, and on both sides of Winfield Boulevard from Coleman Road to the park entrance. Crosswalks are provided at the signalized intersections of Almaden Expressway/Coleman Road and Coleman Road/Winfield Boulevard.

Impacts and Mitigation

Thresholds per CEQA Checklist:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
15. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (for example, result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?				X
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				X
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				X
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (for example, sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (for example, farm equipment)?				X
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?				X
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?				X
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (for example, bus turnouts, bicycle racks?				X

Discussion

The proposed improvements are intended as an enhancement to the existing park uses. The project is not expected to generate additional vehicle trips to the site, since it does not involve an expansion or major intensification in park use. The project, therefore, would not result in adverse traffic or parking impacts.

UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Setting

Utilities and services are furnished to the Almaden Lake site by the following providers:

- Wastewater Treatment: treatment and disposal at the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant - lines maintained by City of San Jose

- Storm Drainage: City of San Jose
- Water Service: San Jose Water Company
- Natural Gas and Electricity: PG&E

Impacts and Mitigation

Thresholds per CEQA checklist:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
16. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?			X	
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction or which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			X	
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?			X	
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				X
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				X
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X

Discussion

The proposed improvements would include modification to portions of the existing irrigation system on the project site. Modifications to the irrigation system are intended to provide water to areas of new landscaping and remove irrigation facilities where new development is proposed. The proposed improvements are not expected to result in a measurable increase in water use on the site.

The project also proposes some changes to the existing drainage system, including regrading, erosion control measures, and installation of new catch basins. These improvements would not result in significant environmental impacts with mitigation identified in this Initial Study.

No changes to sanitary sewer or solid waste services would result from the proposed park improvements.

Chapter 4. References

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